

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend as follows:

Claims 1 to 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for forming a tubular printing blanket comprising the steps of:

applying an application layer to a base;

applying a polymer over the application layer so as to form as a flexible inner tubular sleeve, at least one of the application layer and the polymer being an innermost layer of the tubular sleeve; and

applying a print layer over the tubular sleeve, the tubular printing blanket being reversibly deformable.

Claim 12 (original): The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising forming a compressible layer over the flexible tubular sleeve and under the print layer.

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (original): The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising applying the application layer by winding a tape around the base.

Claim 15 (original): The method as recited in claim 11 further comprising rotating the base.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 11 [further comprising compressing] wherein the printing blanket is capable of being deformed so that two different circumferential points of an inner surface of the sleeve when round contact each other and then the printing blanket may return to a tubular shape.

Claims 17 to 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (new): A method for forming a tubular printing blanket comprising the steps of:

- applying an application layer to a base;
- applying a polymer over the application layer,
- removing the application layer so that the polymer layer defines an innermost layer of a flexible tubular sleeve; and
- applying a print layer over the tubular sleeve, the tubular printing blanket being reversibly deformable.

Claim 22 (new): The method as recited in claim 21 further comprising forming a compressible layer over the flexible tubular sleeve and under the print layer.

Claim 23 (new): The method as recited in claim 21 further comprising applying the application layer by winding a tape around the base.

Claim 24 (new): The method as recited in claim 21 further comprising rotating the base.

Claim 25 (new): The method as recited in claim 21 wherein the printing blanket is capable of being deformed so that two different circumferential points of an inner surface of the sleeve when round contact each other and then the printing blanket may return to a tubular shape.

Claim 26 (new): The method as recited in claim 21 wherein the removing of the application layer occurs prior to the applying of the print layer.